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CLAIMS

1. A process for making a mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer using a press which heat-cures the rubber and adheres it to the fabric and employs an inflatable bag to apply pressure by pressing the layers against a heated platen, wherein a frame defining the extent of the periphery of the mat is located between the bag and the platen and wherein the bag applies pressure over substantially the whole area of the backing layer.

2. A process for making a mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer with a border extending beyond the fabric layer using a press which heat-cures the rubber and adheres it to the fabric and employs an inflatable bag to apply pressure by pressing the layers against a heated platen, wherein a frame defining the extent of the border is located between the bag and the platen, and wherein the bag applies pressure to the assembled layers including the border portion of the backing layer.

3. A process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the mat is a dust control mat.

4. A process according to claim 2 wherein the mat is washable.

5. A process according to any preceding claim wherein the bag applies pressure to the fabric side of the mat and the platen supplies heat to the backing side of the mat.

6. A process according to any preceding claim wherein the fabric layer is on top of the backing layer during pressing.

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7. A process according to claim 6 wherein the frame is placed on top of a border portion of the backing layer before pressing and it cuts through the backing layer during pressing.
8. A process according to any one of claims 1-6 wherein the frame is on the side of the backing layer opposite to the fabric layer.
9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the frame is supported by a moulding sheet for forming cleats or patterns in the backing layer.
10. A process according to claim 9 wherein the frame is secured to or integral with the moulding sheet.
11. A process according to claim 9 or 10 wherein the moulding sheet is of metal.
12. A process according to claim 9, 10 or 11 wherein the moulding sheet has spikes to provide holes in the backing layer.
13. A process according to claim 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 wherein the frame cuts through the backing layer during pressing.
14. A process according to any preceding claim wherein the frame is substantially uninterrupted.
15. A process according to any preceding claim wherein the frame is substantially rectangular.
16. A process according to claim 15 wherein the frame has rounded corners.

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17. A process according to any preceding claim wherein the frame is formed from circular section metal rod.

18. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the backing layer flows outwardly during pressing and the frame acts as a dam so that the backing layer in the finished mat has an integral thickened peripheral portion.

19. A process according to claim 1 substantially as described with reference to the drawings.

20. A process according to claim 1 substantially as described in the Example.

21. A mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer bonded together in which the rubber backing has an integral thickened peripheral region beyond the fabric layer, when produced by a process according to any preceding claim.

22. A mat according to claim 21 which has holes in the backing layer.

23. A mat according to claim 21 substantially as hereinbefore described.

24. A moulding sheet for use in making mats by heat-compression moulding an assembly of a rubber backing layer and a fabric layer, the sheet comprising or being associated with a frame defining the mat periphery.

25. A moulding sheet according to claim 24 wherein the moulding sheet is such as to form cleats in the backing layer and, in operation, supports the frame.

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A4 → 26. A moulding sheet according to claim 24 or 25 wherein the frame is secured to or integral with the moulding sheet.

27. A moulding sheet according to claim 24, 25 or 26 wherein the moulding sheet is of metal.

28. A moulding sheet according to any one of claims 24-27 wherein the moulding sheet has spikes to provide holes in the backing layer.

29. A moulding sheet according to any one of claims 24-27 wherein the frame is substantially uninterrupted.

30. A moulding sheet according to any one of claims 24-29 wherein the frame is substantially rectangular.

31. A moulding sheet according to any one of claims 24-30 wherein the frame has rounded corners.

32. A moulding sheet according to any one of claims 24-31 wherein the frame is formed from circular section metal rod.

33. A moulding sheet according to claim 24 substantially as described with reference to the drawings.

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